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Def for

20 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

SUBJECT : President Roosevelt's Promises Regarding
North African Independence

1. A search of CIA and State Department files made at your request reveals no firm evidence that President Roosevelt made any promises to help the French dependencies in North Africa gain their independence. Most of the legend on this subject centers about: (a) An after-dinner conversation between the President and Sultan Sidi Mohammed on 22 January 1943, and (b) A letter written by the President to the Sultan on 4 February 1943 (copy attached). Mr. Robert Murphy of the State Department who attended the dinner, but did not overhear the conversation, is inclined to believe that the President made no firm promises to the Sultan. No one else beside the President and the Sultan is known to have participated in this conversation.

2. The letter from the President to the Sultan is a very friendly one, inviting the latter to visit the Roosevelts in Washington. The Sultan has never made the letter public. A copy of the letter was made available to CIA by the State Department, which had obtained it from the Hyde Park archives.



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Attachments: 2

State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1		<i>Rom</i>	7/21
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5			
FROM		<i>JSE/ekt</i>	7/21/55
1	Exec. Asst. to the DCI	JSE/ekt	7/21/55
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks:

The Director noted this and said he might wish to take it up at an NSC meeting. Please follow up on this with him.

JSE

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